Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 FEA-01 ACDA-05

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6859

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USERDA GERMANTOWN

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PASS IO/SCT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM, IN

SUBJECT: IAEA SAFEGUARDS AT TARAPUR INDIA REPROCESSING PLANT

REF: A) STATE 253961; B) IAEA VIENNA 5632

- 1. MISOFFS DISCUSSED IAEA PLANS FOR SUBJECT SAFE-GUARDS WITH INSPECTOR GENERAL ROMETSCH AND NAKICENOVIC, BERANEK AND SCHAER OF HIS STAFF.
- 2. INSPECTORATE HAS OBTAINED EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL DESIGN INFORMATION FROM INDIA RE TARAPUR REPROCESSING PLANT, SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE DRAFTING MAJOR PORTION OF SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDS SUBSIDIARY ARRANGEMENTS AND FACILITY ATTACHMENT FOR PLANT. ADDITIONAL REQUIRED INFORMATION NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED WHEN DEVELOPED AT PLANT (E.G., SUFFICIENT DETAILS ABOUT PLANNED IN-PLANT TRANSFERS, BATCH SIZES, MATERIAL STRATIGICATION, ETC., TO DETERMINE SAMPLING PLANS). SOME ADDITIONAL DESIRED INFORMATION CAN BE DEVELOPED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF OPERATING CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPERIENCE AT THE PLANT AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER

THE INITIAL CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

- 3. ONE EXAMPLE OF AREAS WHERE POTENTIAL PROBLEM MAY ARISE, WHICH CANNOT BE FULLY EVALUATED AT THIS TIME, IS FACT THAT NO EQUIPMENT FOR MEASURING RESIDUAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL CONTENT OF LEACHED HULLS (WHICH ARE SENT TO WASTE BURIAL) WAS INCLUDED IN PLANT. ANOTHER EXAMPLE, COMMON TO ALL NEW REPROCESSING PLANTS, IS DETERMINATION OF EQUILIBRIUM PLANT HOLD-UP OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL, AFTER "CLEANOUT." SUCH HOLD-UP CANNOT BE ACCURATELY PREDICTED, SEE REF B.
- 4. ALSO, INDIA DOES NOT PLAN TO TO ISOTOPIC ANALYSIS OF IMPUT FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES, AND SAFEGUARDS AGREMENT GIVES AGENCY NO RIGHT TO REQUIRE THEM TO DO SO. SINCE SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE USEFUL FOR SAFEGUARDS PURPOSES, AGENCY MUST EVALUATE PROS AND CONS OF OBTAINING NECESSARY SAMPLES AND DOING ITS OWN ISOTOPIC ANALYSIS.
- 5. AGENCY STAFF HELD DETAILED TALKS WITH INDIANS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ON DOCUMENT COVERING RECORDS. REPORTS AND SCOPE OF INSPECTIONS AND SETTING FORTH AGENCY'S RIGHTS, INCLUDING CONTINUAL INSPECTION (IMMEDIATE ACCESS AT ALL TIME BY INSPECTORS AT PLANT SITE), ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAMPLING ALL INPUT AND PRO-DUCT BATCHES, AND CONTAINMENT AND SURVEILLANCE TECHNIQUES TO BE USED. INDIA PLANS TO OPERATE PLANT ON "CLEAN PLANT TO CLEAN PLANT" BASIS, I.E., PROCESS-ING SAFEGUARDED CAMPAIGNS WITH PLANT CLEANOUT BEFORE AND AFTER. THIS LIMITS THE POTENTIAL FOR PASSING MUF ALONG FROM BATCH TO BATCH AS A DIVERSION TECHNIQUE. AGENCY EXPECTS HAVE TWO OR THREE INSPECTORS ON SITE DURING EACH SAFEGUARDED CAMPAIGN WITH ONE OR MORE EXTRA AT FINAL CLEAN-OUT. EACH CAMPAIGN COULD LAST SEVERAL MONTHS.
- 6. AGENCY BELIEVES RIGHTS THEY HAVE SOUGHT ARE SUFFICIENTLY BROAD SO THAT, GIVEN EXPECTED EVENTUAL SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS NOTED PARAS 3 AND CONFIDENTIAL

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4 ABOVE, EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER STA. IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, AS IN ALL APPLICATIONS OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS, UNFORESEEN PROBLEMS MAY ARISE WHICH COULD CAUSE THE AGENCY TO DETERMINE THAT IT CAN NO LONGER IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE SAGEGUARDS. THE U.S. WOULD BE INFORMED OF ANY SUCH DETERMINATION.

7. RE QUESTION PARA 4 REFTEL, ALTHOUGH AGENCY
CURRENTLY HAS ORAL AGREEMENT BY INDIA TO PROVISIONS
NOTED PARA 5 ABOVE, AGENCY NOT RPT NOT IN POSITION TO GIVE US
FORMAL, WRITTEN DETERMINATION THAT SAFEGUARDS MAY
BE EFFECTIVELY APPLIED UNTIL IT HAS RECEIVED INDIAN
AGREEMENT IN WRITING, WHICH THEY HOPE RECEIVE
SHORTLY. MISSION HAS ASKED AGENCY TO INFORM USG IN
WRITING OF SUCH DETERMINATION ASAP. MISSION WILL
INFORM WASHINGTON AS SOON AS AGENCY HAS REPLIED.

7. INDIA CURRENTLY PLANS START INITIAL CAMPAIGN
MARCH 1, 1976. ASSUMING AGENCY DETERMINATION PARA 7
CAN BE MADE, AGENCY EXPRESSED HOPE RECEIVE NOTICE OF
JOINT US/INDIA DETERMINATION, CALLED FOR ARTICLE E
OF US/INDIA BILATERAL, PRIOR FEB. 1, 1976, SO AS TO
BE ABLE TO MAKE FIRM INSPECTION PLANS FOR INITIAL
CAMPAIGN. IN LIGHT OF QUALIFICATION NOTED PARA 6
ABOVE, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONSIDER, IN ANY EVENT,
CONDITIONING APPROVAL OF REPROCESSING ON CONTINUED
IAEA ABILITY TO APPLY EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS AT PLANT.LABOWITZ

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